

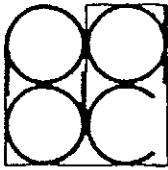
643 Indiana Avenue, NW
(Marv's Restaurant)
Washington
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-588

HABS
DC,
WASH,
302-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Natioanl Park Service
Department of theInterior
Washington, DC 20013-7127



PENNSYLVANIA
AVENUE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

425 13TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

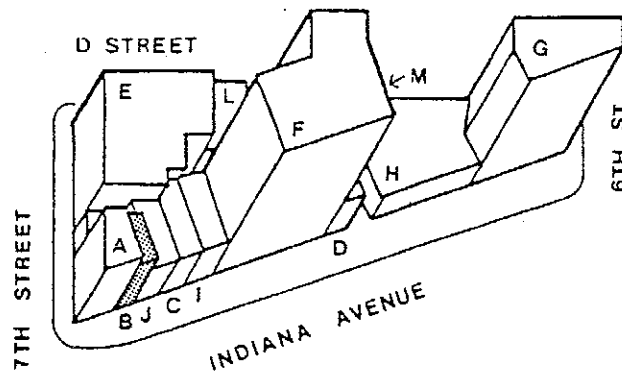
ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
DEVROUX & PURNELL
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS
DAVID MCLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS
DC,
WASH.
302-

Marv's
643 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Lot Part of 823



This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 458, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 458, see HABS No. DC-618.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The late Nineteenth Century commercial building, now known as "Marv's", is located at 643 Indiana Avenue, N.W. It occupies rectangular Lot 4 which is part of the original Lot 6. The site is approximately twenty feet wide by forty feet deep. The structure has interior wood framing with three by twelve wood joists running east-west, and load bearing masonry walls.

The brick facade on Indiana Avenue is complex and well-integrated. A projecting four-story central bay presents round-arched fenestration: a giant two-story opening on the first two levels, and paired and tripartite openings in succession above. Above the fourth floor a pediment enriches the steep mansard roof behind. The central pavillion is flanked by twin three-story side bays. The unadorned rear elevation has two windows per floor with wood lintels and sills.

The interior is basically open in plan, with minor partitioning at the north (rear). A straight-run enclosed staircase occurs along the east wall.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This building shows the picturesque adaptability of the Romanesque style to urban commercial architecture. The richness of the materials used (brick, terra cotta, stained glass, carved wood) and the plasticity of the facade elements combine with the Fireman's Insurance Building to the west to create a unified visual landmark. The impact of these two structures on this corner is a powerful one, and provides an excellent northeast boundary to Market Square.

While relating well to the strong Romanesque National Bank of Washington across the street to the south, these two buildings on Square 458 appear larger and more opulent than the neighboring row of Federal and Greek Revival structures to the east. Their greater bulk provides an anchor for the corner and a gateway for this portion of Indiana Avenue.

The building was apparently built prior to 1882, and, it would appear that the present facade was added to an existing structure in 1882 (Building Permit 720 1/2, 12-4-1882).

SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Facade: The Romanesque Revival facade on Indiana Avenue consists of a symmetrical composition featuring a four-story pedimented central pavilion projecting from the three-story mansard-roofed main portion of the building.

The two lateral edges of the central pavilion feature 45° chamfers. The chamfer on the east rises to a foliage-decorated acute arch just below the attic cornice. On the upper portion of the west chamfer is a projecting cylindrical turret that rests on a Romanesque corbel at the fourth floor level and rises to the eave of the gable.

The first two levels of the central pavilion are unified by a two-story round-headed arch. This opening is framed on each side by clustered colonnettes which rest on a 5' high base of rock-faced ashlar. The crocket-capital of the clusters support the round arch, whose voussoirs consist of molded brick with pellets that create a Romanesque archivolt. The arch opening itself is divided into two stories by a recessed cast-iron beam decorated by relief paterae. At ground level there is a large plate glass window with the original wooden transom with a fan-lite design. Atop the cast-iron beam sits the full-width second floor spandrel panel which has a diaper pattern of terra-cotta tiles. There are two windows at this level separated by a mullion with an engaged colonnette, which in turn supports the fluted transom bar and the also fluted extension of the mullion which bisects the fanlight. The wood sash are single-hung, with the upper portions being the two half-fanlights. The fanlights are glazed with leaded stained glass.

The third floor presents one pair of coupled, round-arched windows. The sash sits on deeply recessed spandrel panels faced by decorative terra-cotta tiles in a floral motif. A cluster pier with two colonnettes rests on a sill-height dado and rises to the spring-line of the arches. Windows are wood, double-hung, one-over-one, with a round-arched top sash.

The decorative elements of the fourth floor are similar to those below, but adapt to a three-window arcade. Openings are narrow at this level and the mullions are correspondingly thinned by featuring only one colonnette. Above these windows, and just below the simple attic cornice are two corbel tables.

The tall gable is raised from the attic cornice, resulting in a pentagonal, rather than triangular, tympanum. At present, the tympanum panel is faced with sheet metal, probably a replacement for an earlier finish. The raking cornice has a deep cavetto that is embellished by projecting pellets. It is supported on the east by a small colonnette that rests on the attic cornice. Atop the pediment at both ends of the roof ridge, sit acroteria in the form of medieval ballflowers. The gabled roof of the central portion extends north to intersect the mansard.

The narrow side bays on each side of the center pavilion single entrance doors at the ground level. The doors have rectangular transom lites and are flanked by pilasters.

The upper two floors have individual, full-story linteled niches, which on both levels feature recessed spandrel panels that reiterate the terra-cotta tile diaper work. The single windows on each level have very flattened segmental arches with double-hung one-over-one wooden sash. Each niche is topped with three corbelled courses of brick.

The cornice of the mansard roof is supported by corbelled brackets, the metopes between them being filled with relief paterae. The eave cornice has a simple scotia. The steep mansard roof has asphalt shingles. These are a recent replacement of more ornate imbricated tiles. The metal ridge saddle is decorated with a row of arched paterae.

Interiors: The interior plan is similar on all floors: an open area to the south, with some partitioned ancillary spaces to the rear or north. Along the east, an enclosed straight-run wood stair-case rises from the first to the third floor, providing access to the second level at its intermediate landing. The fourth floor is accessible through another straight-run stair along the north of the building.

The first floor, accessible from the west, is used as a restaurant and has been remodeled using contemporary finishes.

The upper stories are vacant, and while kept clean and weathered, show considerable deterioration. The worn wood floors are exposed. Plaster applied directly to the two brick walls has fallen off in many locations. On the front wall and the ceilings both the plaster and the wood lath have been removed, exposing furring strips and joists.

The second floor doors and windows still retain elegant block and traverse. Some of the wood sash are new. On the third and fourth levels, raised wood platforms at the front bay are extant.

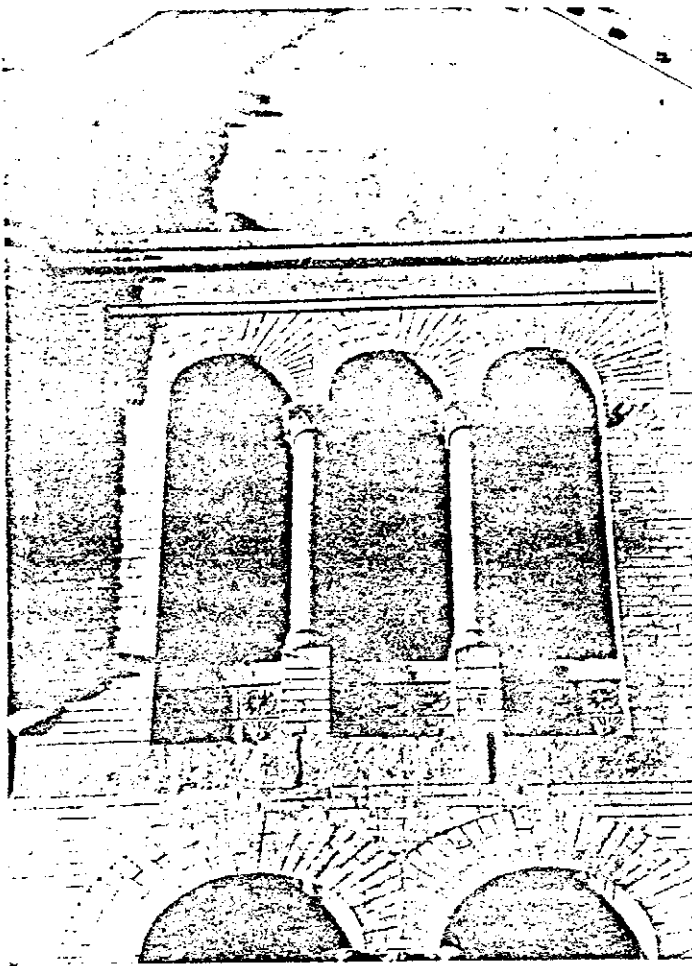
The attic, while not accessible, is visible due to the removal of the fourth floor ceiling.



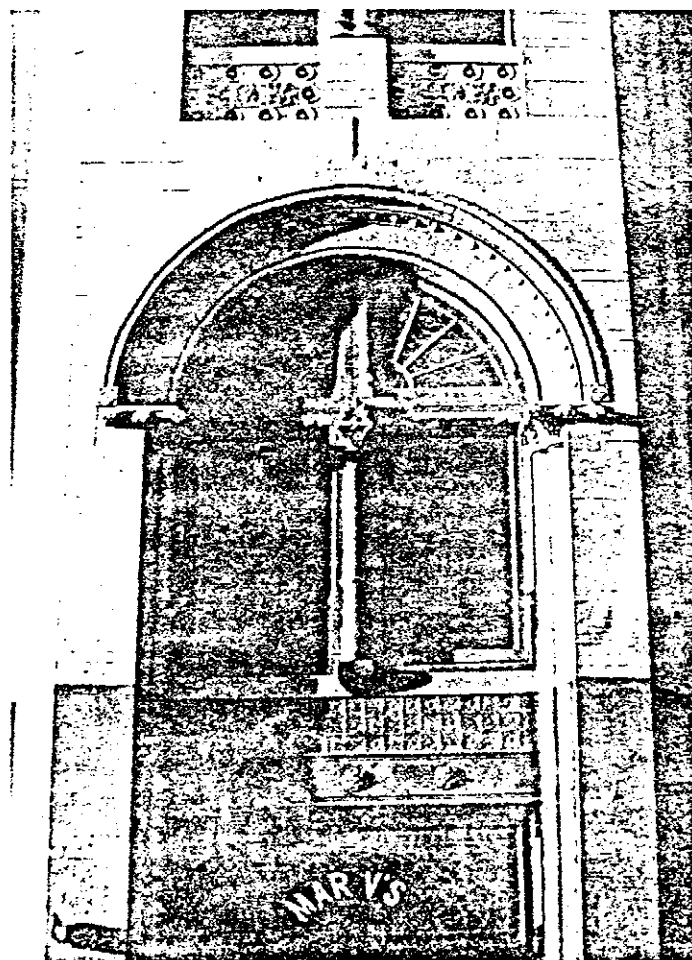
Indiana Avenue Facade (South)



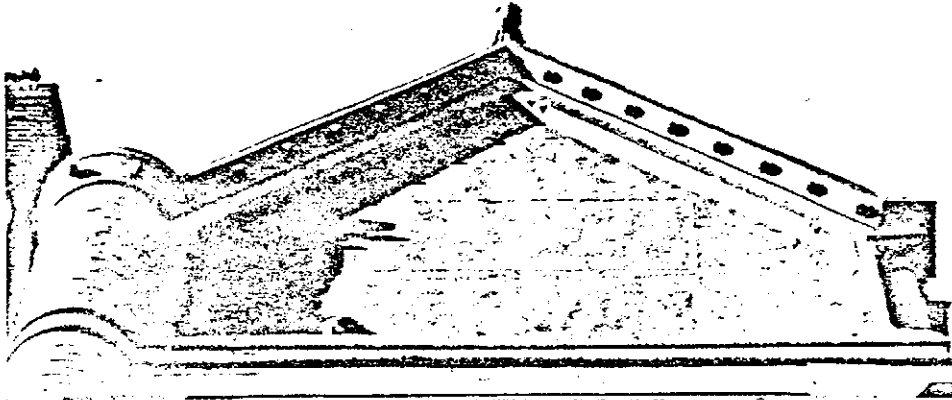
Oblique View of Facade
showing Side Bays of Central
Pavilion



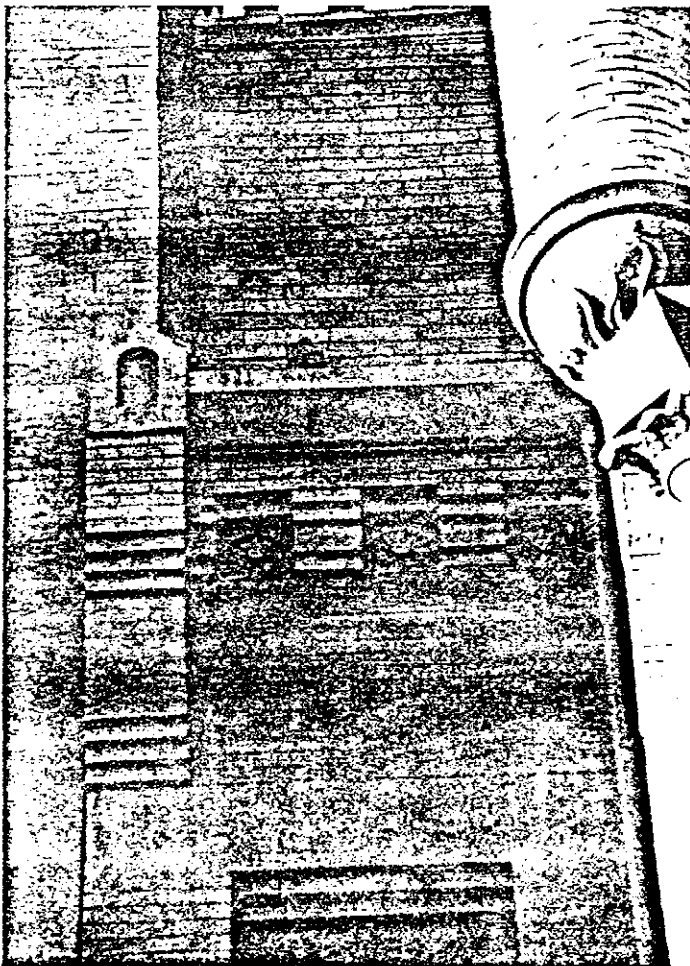
Facade Detail of Fourth Floor of
Central Pavilion



Facade Detail of Second Floor
of Central Pavilion



Facade: Pediment over Central Pavilion



Facade Detail of Eave Corbeling a
Mansard over Lateral Bays



Main Facade:
Turret at East End of Central Bay



Main Facade:
Detail of Turret Corbel

Lot 6 (Sublot 4, 823)
643 Louisiana Avenue

1792.....David Burnes owned Lot 6 (Deed, Liber A, Folio 1).

1799.....David Burnes died and William Whetcroft bought Lot 6.

1809.....Henry and Sarah Whetcroft inherited Lot 4.

1819.....Lot 6 assessed to John Housman, Alexander Kerr, William A. Bradley and Edmund Rice.

1829/33...Lot 4 was assessed to John Schimdle's heirs at \$542.00 for the ground and \$2,200.00 for the improvements.

1844.....The property was assessed to Thomas Magnier's heirs at \$813.00.

1859.....Edward B. Stelle was assessed at \$3,252.00 for the property.

1870.....Samual A. Peugh was assessed for \$6,500.00 for the property.

1870

to

1890.....The National Union Fire Insurance Company occupied the building according to the City Directories.

1871

to

1886.....M. G. Copeland, an awning maker, was listed as the tenant of 643 Louisiana Avenue.

1872/73...Samual A. Peugh was assessed \$2,981.00 for the property.

1878/79...The National Union Fire Insurance Company was assessed \$3,523.00 for the property.

1882

to

1890.....William B. Hartley a merchandise broker was listed as the tenant.

1882.....On December 4th a permit was issued to the National Union Fire Insurance Company to put in a new front (Permit #720½, cost \$3,000.00).

1883/84...The lot was assessed at \$4,367.00 to Mathew G. Emery.

1883

to

1889.....A merchandise broker, William Beall, was listed as the occupant of the property.

1893/94...Mathew G. Emery was assessed \$5,962.00 for the ground and \$5,500.00 for the improvements.

1901

to

1917.....The City Directory lists Percy G. McGlue, a lawyer, as a tenant.

1901

to

1935.....James F. Shea, a real estate agent, was listed as a tenant.

1907

to

1917.....Cornelius Shea was listed in the Directory as a liquor dealer.

1909

to

1956.....The Enterprise Serial Building Association was listed as a tenant of the building.

1981.....The building goes by the name of Marv's today.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

1792	(October 5) Washington first platted
1813	First TAX ASSESSMENT record
1819	Tax Assessment
1822	First CITY DIRECTORY
1824	Tax Assessment
1829	Tax Assessment
1834	City Directory
1839	Tax Assessment
1840	Tax Assessment
1843	City Directory
1844	Tax Assessment
1846	City Directory
1850	City Directory
1853	City Directory
1855	City Directory - first time house numbers were used as part of addresses
1858	First MAP of DC - Baschke
1858	City Directory
1859	Tax Assessment
1862	City Directory - Directories published annually hereafter
1864	Tax Assessment
1869-1871	Tax Assessment
1870	New street numbering system instituted; many early addresses in PADC site changed
1872	Plat Map (Bastert)
1878	First recorded building permit
1878-1879	Tax Assessment
1883-1884	Tax Assessment
1887	Plat Map (Hopkins)
1892	Plat Map (Hopkins)
1893-1894	Tax Assessment
1899-1900	Tax Assessment
1903	Plat Map (Baist)
1919	Plat Map (Baist)
1920	Plat Map (Baist)
1923	Plat Map (Baist)
1924	Plat Map (Baist)
1939	Plat Map (Baist)
1948	Plat Map (Baist)
1957	Plat Map (Baist)

SOURCES

Baist Real Estate Atlas
Bastert and Enthoffer Plat Maps
Boyd's City Directories
District of Columbia Building Permits
District of Columbia General Assessment Records
District of Columbia Recorder of Deeds
District of Columbia Surveyor's Office Records
District of Columbia Tax Records
Hopkins Real Estate Atlas
Polk's City Directories
Property Map for Downtown Urban Renewal Area for District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency
Sanborn Insurance Map

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO. DC-588
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Commercial Building currently Marv's Restaurant		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 645 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Square 458, Lot 4		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE). Facade dates from 1882 (Building Permit #720½, 12/4/1882). (see next page)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The building has traditionally accommodated insurance and real estate agencies and law firms. Stylistically, it adapts the Romanesque style to urban commercial architecture. The richness of materials and the plasticity of its facade elements harmonize (see next page)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Commercial with Romanesque detailing		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Load-bearing masonry walls; 3" x 12" wood joists running east-west.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular - approximately 20' x 40' x 100'. Basement plus four stories.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Four-story chamfered pavilion with three-story twin side bays; brick facing; mansard roof. Central Bay - plate glass, wooden transom, fan-light within giant 2-story round-arch; framing colonnettes; second level has colonnette mullion; third floor has coupled round-arch windows; fourth floor adopts three-window arcade; terra-cotta tile spandrel panels; (see next page)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Basically open plan with minor partitioning at north (rear) throughout. First floor - modern finishes. Second floor - exposed wood floors; front windows have block architraves; two rear windows. Third, fourth floors - exposed wood floors; wood platforms at front bays. Plaster on walls very incomplete. Ceiling plaster and wood lath removed.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Facade - Permit #720½, 12/4/1882. Install one hand-powered freight elevator - Permit #5378, 12/5/1922. Replace window with door; build steps (rear) to basement - Permit #5661, 12/5/1922		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE DETERIORATED - Basement used for storage; restaurant on first level; upper floors vacant.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE This building lies within the boundaries of the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site. It is scheduled for redevelopment as part of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's Historic Preservation Plan, 1977.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Columbia Historic Society - city directory information, Records, National Archives - building permit information, Washingtoniana Collection, Martin Luther King Memorial Library - plat map information.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Suzanne Frangia, Anderson Notter/Mariani for Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.		DATE 9/17/1981

Commercial Building currently Marv's Restaurant
645 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Square 458, Lot 4
Washington, D. C.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (cont'd.)

Building itself may be earlier as one appears on pre 1880-plats.
No permits available for original construction.

SIGNIFICANCE: (cont'd.)

with and enrich the Fireman's Insurance Building adjacent to the west to
create a unified visual landmark.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (cont'd.)

cylindrical turret west, pendentive on east terminate pavilion chamfers;
pentagonal tympanum. Transomed entrances on side bays; upper floors
fenestration set in full-story linteled niches; terra-cotta detailing.